
Alternative 4 is the environmentally preferred alternative based on its protection of environmental and cultural resources, widest range of beneficial uses without degradation, and benefits to visitor use and experience.

The No-Action Alternative fails to meet criteria C and D, listed above. In particular, the No-Action Alternative would not have the greatest beneficial uses without risk of health and safety (criterion C) as it does not address the recommendations contained in the *Vulnerability Reduction Design Considerations for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Replacement Project* (June 2002). Further, the implementation of the No-Action Alternative would fail to preserve the Jones Point Lighthouse and D.C. South Cornerstone, leading to the continued deterioration of these resources due to water damage from the Potomac River and heavy rains (criterion D). As previously stated, the No-Action Alternative is not being considered for improvements to JPP (refer to Chapter 3.0, Section A).

The action alternatives fulfill all of the criteria listed above. In particular, the action alternatives address the recommendations contained in the *Vulnerability Reduction Design Considerations for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Replacement Project* (June 2002). The differences between the action alternatives appear in the amount of impacts to wetlands, forests/vegetation, and community gardens, and provision of multi-use fields and water access.

6.0 COORDINATION AND PREPARERS

A. History of Public Involvement

An extensive agency coordination and public involvement program, established during the WWB Replacement Project was continued during planning activities for JPP. The design phase of the WWB Replacement Project included the establishment of several teams and working groups comprised of agency representatives, technical experts and citizens to continue the refinement of the WWB design that was selected during the planning phase of the project. The following teams were put in place for technical and agency support:

- The Interagency Coordination Group (ICG) represents 25 regulatory and resource agencies that reviewed the project-wide permit requirements, avoidance and minimization alternatives, and mitigation alternatives and proposals. The ICG continues to monitor adherence to the permits and monitors the design, viability and success of the mitigation. In this capacity, they have provided comments for the appropriate impact mitigation for JPP, as well as other aspects of the WWB Replacement Project.
- The MOA stipulated the formation of the Design Review Working Group (DRWG). The technical experience of this group allows for discussion of Section 106 coordination, review of design documents and confirms compliance with the MOA. They also served as the Historic Advisory Committee during the WWB Design Competition conducted in 1998. They have provided guidance on interim and ultimate

plans for the enhancements in JPP as well as other aspects of the WWB Replacement Project.

- The Environmental Management Group (EMG) comprises environmental managers from the Sponsoring Agencies and the USCOE, provides input, expertise, and policy direction for environmental issues including types of mitigation and treatment.
- The Virginia Technical Coordination Team (VATCT), comprised of FHWA, VDOT, Fairfax County and City of Alexandria engineering staff, provides design direction for Virginia improvements and receives information about JPP.

The following public involvement and outreach activities have been underway during the planning processes for the WWB Replacement Project and the JPP improvements:

- Two offices were established with scheduled weekly public hours and other opportunities for the public to reach the technical staff by appointment. The offices offer a resource of graphic and report documentation and staff to answer questions. One of these offices is located in Alexandria.
- Citizen Advisory Committee for the 1998 WWB Design Competition, which included members of the local community, participated in the selection of a design concept for the new WWB. This particular Committee was interested in the bridge aesthetics and views from within JPP, including the Operator's Tower location.
- The establishment of four Stakeholder Participation Panels, one of which focused on JPP issues. Field visits were held and attendance and participation of the panel members was consistent. The members of the Stakeholder Participation Panel requested that they remain involved, on an as-needed basis, throughout subsequent phases of the project.
- Open Houses conducted in June and November 1998 and June and December 1999.
- "Fast Facts" summarizing key issues of the project, specific resource papers such as cultural resources in JPP and Freedmen's Cemetery as well as quarterly issues of the Connections newsletters and many pro-active media placements.
- A project website (www.wilsonbridge.com) that debuted in November 1998, as part of the planning process is regularly updated and includes notice of public meetings.

The Alexandria City Council has held many meetings, open to the public, during which the JPP improvements were discussed through their development. For instance, the City Council reviewed and endorsed the 30% design drawings for JPP and the Urban Deck at a City staff presentation of the park and deck plans during a work session on February 20, 1999.

The Mayor, staff, and the Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission presented the 30% design on the Mayor's monthly cable television show on March 8, 1999 and the plans were presented to a number of City Boards and Commissions.

Presentations on the current plans for JPP and the Urban Deck were made to members of City Boards and Commissions (August 14, 2000) and to approximately 120 people at a public informational meeting held on September 6, 2000. A City Council Public Hearing was

conducted on November 18, 2000. The Council discussed the topic during the December 8, 2000 City Council Meeting at which time the interim plan for JPP was approved with modifications of retention of a forested area. The Council conducted a City Council Public Hearing on December 16, 2001.

Joint Public Hearings on the Draft SEIS and Joint Permit Application were held February 8 and 10, 2000. The Joint Public Hearings were held to afford interested parties the opportunity to review project information and to present their views regarding the information contained in the Draft SEIS. This information focused on the geometric refinements of conceptual mitigation plans, as well as current status of the JPP conceptual interim and ultimate improvements. Cultural resource findings, threatened and endangered species findings and other concerns of the refinements to WWB Alternative 4A were described at this time as Current Design Alternative 4A. Public and private oral testimony was recorded and transcribed. In addition, written comments were received, both at the Joint Public Hearing and during a comment period. Following the Joint Public Hearing and the receipt of public comments on the Draft SEIS, sponsoring agencies assessed the comments and directed revisions to complete the FSEIS in April 2000.

During December 2000, the City of Alexandria established a Neighborhood Task Force for the WWB Replacement Project. The Neighborhood Task Force is comprised of 10 members, two of whom are City Council members. A WWB Replacement Project representative is a liaison to the Task Force.

On June 27, 2005, the City of Alexandria held a public hearing on the design concepts under consideration for the JPP improvements. The City Council voted to recommend "Scheme A" to the NPS for consideration (this EA identifies the Council's recommendations as Alternative 1). The Council's Scheme A featured two 110 x 60 yard multi-use athletic fields north of the WWB, one oriented in an east-west direction and the other oriented north-south, and provision of 110 parking spaces between Royal and Lee Streets. The Council also specified that appropriate tree buffers should be provided to mitigate the impact on adjoining neighborhoods.

This EA will be circulated for public and agency review with a comment period of 60 days. The EA will be available for review at area public libraries and on the NPS website. The website address is <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/gwmp>. You may fill out a comment form online during the public comment period. Refer to the cover letter at the front of this document for the list of libraries and the dates for public circulation and receipt of comments.

The NPS will consider the public and agency comments prior to determining the final decision document that would be sent to the National Capital Region Director for approval and signature. Responses to comments would be incorporated in the Final EA and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) issued. The elements of the FONSI would then be included in the final design. The NPS will continue coordination with the Virginia SHPO pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA and other interested parties, as appropriate. Interested parties and the general public will be offered continuing opportunities to comment during the planning and design for the project.

B. Summary of Public Input in the Planning Process

Public Involvement Activities

Table 2 lists the opportunities for public input in the planning process. The planning process included the JPP Stakeholder Participation Panel's recommendation to the City and the NPS for parking and access concepts to be presented in the EA. At the same time, the City of Alexandria's Neighborhood Task Force for the WWB Replacement Project and the Yates Gardens Civic Association considered the concepts and provided their own recommendations to the City and NPS. The action alternatives that are assessed in this EA reflect the recommendations by these three groups. In July 2005, the Alexandria City Council held a public hearing and voted to support an action alternative that accommodates two multi-use fields on the north side of the WWB and 110 parking spaces between Royal Street and Lee Street.

**TABLE 2
PUBLIC INPUT IN THE JPP PLANNING PROCESS**

Public Involvement Activity	Date	Purpose/Issues
Stakeholder Participation Panel Meeting	December 1998	JPP project introduction.
Stakeholder Participation Panel Meeting	May 1999	Recommended location of multi-use fields, hard surface areas, and pathways.
City of Alexandria Board and Commission Meetings	August 2000	Presentation of conceptual mitigation plan.
City of Alexandria City Council Public Hearing	November 2000	Presentation of JPP concepts as approved by the SPP.
2001 EA Public Comment Period	January – February 2002	2001 EA available for public inspection and comment
Joint Meeting of the SPP and the City of Alexandria Neighborhood Task Force (NTF)	June 2004	Presentation of JPP parking and access concepts.
Stakeholder Participation Panel Meeting	September 2004	Presentation of revised JPP parking alternatives
Yates Gardens Civic Association Meeting	October 2004	Present current alternatives and obtain comments.
City of Alexandria Public Hearing and Vote	June 2005	City of Alexandria obtained public comment on proposed concepts and voted to support an action alternative that accommodates two multi-use fields on the north side of the WWB and 110 parking spaces between Royal and Lee Streets.
Citizens for a Historical and Natural Jones Point Park (CHNJP)	September 2005	Present current alternatives, clarify NEPA process and NPS Management Policies, and obtain comments.
Open House	October 2005	Present the current alternatives under consideration for improvements to JPP in an informal, open house setting.
Public Hearing	September 2006	Provide a formal opportunity for public comment on the project.

Written Comments on the 2001 JPP EA

The 2001 JPP EA was circulated for public comment between January 11, 2002 and February 11, 2002. The NPS received two written comments: (a) from the City of Alexandria Transportation and Environmental Services Division and (b) from Leslie Jones, resident. The City of Alexandria (letter, dated February 8, 2002) suggested editorial revisions and corrections. Leslie Jones (letter, dated February 11, 2002) expressed her concern regarding active versus passive recreation opportunities in JPP and noted her sightings of beaver along the shore of the Potomac River. This EA reflects the editorial suggestions and addresses the comments contained in this correspondence.

Written Comments Received During Subsequent Planning Activities

The NPS has received written comments from citizens during the planning activities for JPP. Some comments objected to removing trees to accommodate a multi-use field on the north side of the bridge. Other comments asked about the potential effects on the archeological and historical character of JPP and other cultural resources such as the Alexandria Historic District and the VSC. Still other comments remarked on the potential loss of trees, wetlands, and floodplains, and the effect on natural water flow. Others identified potential neighborhood impacts from visual, noise, traffic and parking as concerns. Copies of the written correspondence are available for inspection at the NPS and at the WWB Replacement Project offices during normal business hours.

The NPS held an open house on October 15, 2005 to present information on JPP improvements. The NPS received approximately 200 written comments from citizens. The written correspondence encompassed the following major topics: environmental issues (tree removal and flooding); community issues (parking, traffic, and safety on Royal Street); location of recreational fields; protection of cultural resources; and environmental documentation issues. Copies of the written correspondence are available for inspection at the NPS and the WWB Replacement Project offices during normal business hours. The following lists the number of comments received by topic:

- Alternative 1: 15 comments
- Alternative 4: 14 comments
- Environment: 32 comments
(tree removal = 13, flooding = 9, “other” = 8, general = 2)
- No development
(no parking/no fields): 22 comments
- EIS (should be done): 17 comments
- Historic Resources: 5 comments
- St. Mary's Elementary School
(parking on S. Royal Street, safety, traffic): 133 comments.

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